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Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP
1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

MAR 12 2003

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
TC 3600

In re application of
Joseph Robert Offutt Jr. et al.

Application No. 09/275,887

Filed: March 25, 1999

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
DETERMINING NON-OBVIOUS
SAVINGS IN THE PURCHASE OF
GOODS AND SERVICES

DECISION ON REQUEST
FOR WITHDRAWAL OF
ATTORNEY

This is a decision on the request filed on November 8, 2002, under 37 CFR 1.36 and MPEP 402.06, requesting permission to withdraw as the attorney of record in the above-identified application.

The request is **NOT APPROVED**.

Under 37 CFR 1.36 an attorney may withdraw only upon application to and approval by the Commissioner. It should be noted that a withdrawal is effective when approved, not when filed. Besides giving due notice to his or her client and delivering to the client all papers and property to which the client is entitled as specified under 37 CFR 10.40, approval of such a request requires that the following conditions be met:

- A) Each attorney of record must sign the notice of withdrawal, or the notice must contain a clear indication of one attorney signing on behalf of another, because the Office does not recognize law firms;
- B) A proper reason for the withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) or subsection (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided; and
- C) If withdrawal is requested in accordance with 37 CFR 10.40(c) above, there must be at least 30 days between approval of the withdrawal and the later of the expiration date of a time period for reply or the expiration date of the period which can be obtained by a petition and fee for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The request to withdraw as attorney in the above-identified application is not approved because the request does not comply with conditions A) and B) above

As to condition A), the attorney signing the request does not have power of attorney in this application. Furthermore, in the original declaration, Debbie Segers of Sabre, Inc. was also given power in this application and the request fails to list this attorney. If only the attorneys of Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner listed in the original declaration are to have power withdrawn and Debbie Segers is intended to remain having power of attorney for this case, this needs to be made clear in any supplemental request; otherwise the above-noted attorney would need to be added to the request.

As to condition B), a proper reason for withdrawal as enumerated in 37 CFR 10.40(b) or subsection (1)-(6) of 37 CFR 10.40(c) must be provided.



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SNM/tpl: 3/6/03